Suicide by farmers

12. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exact reasons have been identified for the spate of suicide by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the view of experts/NGOs in identifying the exact cause of suicide by farmers have been taken note of;

(d) if so, whether any new study would be conducted to ascertain the exact cause of spate of suicide by farmers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The suicides by farmers have been reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat only in 2008-09. The State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurities as causes for suicides by farmers, as also identified in various study reports in this context *e.g.* Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, National Institutes for Rural Development (NIRD), National Institute of Agricultural Extension & Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad and Veeresh Committee etc. Further, the Veeresh Committee in context of farmers' suicides in Karnataka has stated that connecting the incidents of suicides directly to any single cause would be erroneous, since it is a personal decision of the victim and the post suicide search for causes gives only circumstantial evidence.

Record production of wheat and rice

13. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record wheat and paddy production in Punjab and other wheat growing States and rice procurement has crossed 143 lakh tonne which is up by 21 per cent;

(b) if so, whether wheat sowing has been completed at 27 million hectare;

(c) if so, whether wheat procurement has reached an all time record of over 25 million tonne;

(d) if so, whether in view of this increased production of wheat and rice, Government is considering to ease the curbs on export of wheat and rice; and

(e) if so, the latest position and whether country has become self-sufficient in wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per 4th advance estimates for 2007-08 released on 9th July, 2008, production of wheat and rice at All India level are estimated to be at record levels of 78.40 million tonnes and 96.43 million

onnes. As per 1st Advance Estimates for 2008-09 released on 25th September, 2008, production of rice during Kharif season of 2008-09 has been estimated at 83.25 million tonnes. State-wise details of production of wheat and rice during 2007-08 (Kharif + Rabi) and 2008-09 (Kharif only) are given in the Statement (See below).

There has been a record procurement of 28.49 million tonnes of rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08. In the current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09, 21.46 million tonnes of rice has been procured up to 9.2.2009 against 18.17 million tonnes of rice procured during the corresponding period of the Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08.

(b) As per the assessment reported to the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG), the area sown under wheat during Rabi 2008-09 is estimated at 27.6 million hectares.

(c) There has been a record procurement of 22.68 million tonnes of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the increased production and procurement of wheat and rice, the Government has decided to allow export of upto 2.00 million tonnes of wheat from Central Pool on diplomatic considerations. The export duty on basmati rice has been removed and Minimum Export Price of basmati rice has been reduced from $ 1200 per tonne to $ 1100 per tonne. Currently, the country is self sufficient in wheat and rice.

Statement

State-wise Estimates of production of Rice and Wheat during 2007-2008 and 2008-2009

('000 Tonnes)

State	Rice		Wheat
	2007-08*	2008-09$ (Kharif only)	2007-08*
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	13226.0	7627.0	7.0
Assam	2783.0	2563.0	63.0
Bihar	4495.0	3919.0	4414.0
Chhattisgarh	5426.0	5278.0	99.0
Gujarat	1491.0	1372.0	3764.0
Haryana	3613.0	3958.0	10293.0
Himachal Pradesh	121.0	116.0	608.0
Jammu & Kashmir	564.0	553.0	474.0
Jharkhand	3015.0	3095.0	130.0
Karnataka	3548.0	2278.0	241.0
Kerala	546.0	498.0	N G

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	1285.0	1336.0	6267.0
Maharashtra	2967.0	2830.0	2081.0
Orissa	7507.0	6079.0	11.0
Punjab	10489.0	10496.0	15744.0
Rajasthan	260.0	178.0	7125.0
Tamil Nadu	6227.0	5693.0	NG
Uttar Pradesh	11741.0	12448.0	25432.0
Uttarakhand	573.0	578.0	707.0
West Bengal	14668.0	10608.0	820.0
Others	1887.0	1750.0	121.0
All-India	96431.0	83254.0	78401.0

* 4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008

$ 1st Advance Estimates released on 25.09.2008

NG: Not Grown

Measures to prevent bird-flu

†14. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in view of frequent threats of spread of bird-flu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that bird-flu had spread to some parts of the country in November-December, 2008 also;

(c) the estimated loss to States affected therefrom;

(d) whether some countries have stopped import of poultry products from India in view of bird-flu; and

(e) whether Government has taken steps to maintain co-ordination with the neighboring countries, so that the bird-flu could be effectively checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The steps taken by the Government in this regard, *inter alia*, include surveillance of poultry against the disease, training of veterinary personnel, upgradation of existing laboratories and establishment of new ones and spreading awareness in the general public on precautions required in handling poultry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The loss on account of the outbreak of bird-flu includes, poultry lost due to culling, loss of income of poultry farmers, input suppliers and traders, loss due to decline in prices of poultry and poultry products in the affected areas and in the rest of the country loss, of export income, loss due to aborted growth of the poultry industry and loss due to decline in investor confidence in the industry.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.